

that would define marriage differently. This year alone, voters in eleven states will consider amendments to their state constitutions barring gay marriage.

The charade on the House floor today is a strategy to change the subject, and I certainly can't blame the Republican Party for wanting to distract voters from their record. That is why the Republican leadership bypassed the committee of jurisdiction and brought H.J. Res. 106 directly to the floor in the middle of the campaign season.

THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW PRESIDENT AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the October 10th inauguration of Dr. Ronald D. Liebowitz as the sixteenth president of Middlebury College. Middlebury is one of the nation's finest liberal arts colleges. We in Vermont are proud that we have, in our midst, a beacon of learning for students all across the nation.

Dr. Liebowitz was chosen as Middlebury's forthcoming president after a five-month search during which 400 prospective candidates were reviewed. Despite the fact that the prestigious position attracted many of the nation's foremost educators, Middlebury selected one of its own, the third time it has chosen a member of its faculty to head the institution. His able predecessor, John McCardell, was also a longtime faculty member when he became president in 1992, and Dr. McCardell's thirteen-year leadership has amply confirmed Middlebury College's confidence that its own faculty have some of the finest minds and some of the most humane administrative abilities that can be found in the entire nation.

A professor of geography, Dr. Liebowitz is a widely recognized authority on Russian economic and political geography. Dr. Liebowitz has served as provost and executive vice president of Middlebury College since 1997. Earlier, he served for two years as dean of the faculty. During his administrative years he played a significant leadership role in the internationalization of the curriculum, including the introduction of innovative interdisciplinary, team-taught senior seminars in international studies, the establishment of a new major in international studies, and the strengthening of the program in international politics and economics.

We in Vermont welcome his leadership as he shepherds this outstanding college into the future. We look forward to a rich partnership as Middlebury brings its student and faculty resources to bear on helping us address Vermont's, and the nation's, problems and priorities. And in these difficult times, we have confidence that Middlebury's long-standing choice to focus on international affairs will educate yet more generations of students to look outward, to recognize that they have a dual obligation: to work for domestic justice by helping those in America who are less fortunate than themselves, and to work for international justice by giving support to foreign na-

tions as they attempt to realize social justice for their own citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELLEVILLE SHOE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company located in my hometown of Belleville, Illinois.

Founded in 1904, Belleville Shoe produced their first military footwear for World War I in 1917 and continues providing footwear to each branch of our Nation's military and law enforcement personnel.

The original group of investors for Belleville Shoe was of German descent: Adolph Knobloch, H.E. Leunig, Joseph Reis, James Rentchler, and William Weidmann. Reis was named president, but it was Weidmann, the company's secretary-treasurer, who had introduced the shoe-factory idea. The company began operations in the former Rentchler machine shops at East B and Delmar streets. Born in Belleville, William Weidmann was one of eight children of a German immigrant couple. His parents arrived in the area in the second half of the nineteenth century. By the time he was gathering investors for the company, he and his wife Caroline (Leunig) had two sons, William and Walter.

In the same year that Belleville Shoe was incorporated, Walter graduated from the St. Louis Manual Training School. Soon thereafter, he joined the company as the operational manager. Walter directed Belleville Shoe's operations successfully through the Great Depression, World War II, and into the 1950s. Through the 1960s, 1970s, and into the mid-1980s, Walter's son, Homer Weidmann led the company. Today, William Weidmann's great-grandson, Eric R. Weidmann, is the president.

In its beginnings, the Belleville Shoe Company produced everyday footwear for men and boys. During World War I, the company produced its first line of combat boots for the military. With the end of World War I, the factory again started producing more than 25 styles of shoes. During this time, the company became the first in the Belleville area to offer worker incentives and daily attendance was rewarded with profit bonus and a life insurance policy.

By the time Belleville Shoe celebrated its 25th anniversary, the company employed 300 people and manufactured about two thousand pairs of shoes daily. Like many companies in that day, Belleville Shoe struggled during the Depression—it was a military contract, which was again awarded to produce military footwear for World War II, that brought the company back to the heavy production schedules it had during World War I.

By the end of World War II, Belleville Shoe had earned an award for continued on-time delivery throughout the conflict. It was during this period that the strong relationship with our Nation's military was forged, permitting Belleville Shoe's claim to be "the country's oldest and largest supplier of military footwear."

From 1940 to the present, Belleville Shoe Manufacturing has provided a continual flow of military boots to various divisions of the nation's armed forces.

In terms of its dress shoe production lines, from the 50's up until the 70's, Belleville Shoe experienced significant declines in production of dress shoes. During the 70's, Belleville Shoe increased production of their sports shoe lines. These sport lines of track, baseball and football shoes were produced in Belleville and sold under the Rawlings brand name. By the mid-1980s, however, shoe imports of all types increased in the United States, particularly sports shoes and Belleville Shoe began to focus exclusively on military products. Production needs during this time also increased the requirements for additional space and heavier equipment to produce larger quantities of military shoes. In 1986, a new facility was opened in the Belle Valley Industrial Park in Belleville to accommodate this production.

During Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s, Belleville Shoe was again called upon to dramatically increase the military's supply of footwear. The design and material of the traditional black all-leather combat boot was changed to suit the conditions in the Persian Gulf A desert-colored, suede and nylon boot with insulation to protect against the desert heat was created and shipped out. These boots are in use today in operations in the middle-east and throughout the world.

In this, its 100th year, Belleville Shoe is the largest supplier of military boots to our U.S. Armed Forces. With two plants, one in Belleville, Illinois and DeWitt, Arkansas, the company is producing over 1,000,000 pairs of shoes annually.

And today, as in 1917, their boots are Made in the USA. Wherever U.S. military forces have walked, Belleville Shoe footwear has been on duty.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Belleville Shoe Company, it's Company President Eric Weidmann and all of the men and women at Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EIGHTH AVENUE SENIOR CENTER'S 11TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the 11th anniversary of the Brooklyn Chinese American Association's Eighth Avenue Senior Center.

The Eighth Avenue Senior Center is part of the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association (BCA), which has been serving the growing Asian-American population in the Sunset Park, Borough Park, and Bay Ridge communities of Brooklyn for the past 17 years, as a human services and community development organization.

Today, the BCA's Eighth Avenue Senior Center touches the lives of over 3,000 elderly residents in the area, and offers services to over 250 seniors on a daily basis. The center provides older Asian-Americans with a variety